

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for protection against stroke, comprising the steps of:

inserting a distal end of a catheter into a carotid artery;

locating a first expandable member within a common carotid artery proximal a lesion in an internal carotid artery;

locating a second expandable member within an external carotid artery; and

expanding the first expandable member to occlude the common carotid artery;

expanding the second expandable member to at least partially obstruct the external carotid artery thereby abolishing antegrade blood flow in the internal carotid artery; and

performing an angioplasty procedure on the lesion.
2. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein blood flow in the internal carotid artery is reversed to pass over an atheromatous lesion and toward the common carotid artery.
3. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second expandable member is expanded before the first expandable member.
4. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second expandable member is expanded to occlude the external carotid artery.
5. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second expandable member is expanded to constrict the external carotid artery.

6. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein blood flow in the internal carotid artery is reversed to pass over an atheromatous lesion and toward the external carotid artery.
7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the catheter carries the first and second expandable members.
8. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second expandable members are balloons.
9. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of advancing a therapeutic instrument into an artery of the head or neck and contacting the therapeutic instrument with an atheromatous lesion.
10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the artery of the head or neck is selected from the group consisting of the left common carotid artery, right common carotid artery, left internal carotid artery, left middle cerebral artery, left anterior cerebral artery, right internal carotid artery, the right anterior cerebral artery, anterior communicating artery, right posterior communicating artery, left posterior communicating artery, right posterior cerebral artery, left posterior cerebral artery, basilar artery, right external carotid artery, and left external carotid artery.

11. (New) A method for protection against stroke, comprising the steps of:
 - inserting a distal end of a catheter into a carotid artery;
 - locating a first expandable member within a common carotid artery proximal a lesion in an internal carotid artery;
 - locating a second expandable member within an external carotid artery;
 - expanding the first expandable member to occlude the common carotid artery;
 - expanding the second expandable member to at least partially obstruct the external carotid artery thereby abolishing antegrade blood flow in the internal carotid artery; and
 - deploying a stent within the lesion.
12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein blood flow in the internal carotid artery is reversed to pass over an atheromatous lesion and toward the common carotid artery.
13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the second expandable member is expanded before the first expandable member.
14. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the second expandable member is expanded to occlude the external carotid artery.
15. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the second expandable member is expanded to constrict the external carotid artery.

16. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein blood flow in the internal carotid artery is reversed to pass over an atheromatous lesion and toward the external carotid artery.
17. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the distal end of the catheter carries the first and second expandable members.
18. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the first and second expandable members are balloons.
19. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of advancing a therapeutic instrument into an artery of the head or neck and contacting the therapeutic instrument with an atheromatous lesion.
20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the artery of the head or neck is selected from the group consisting of the left common carotid artery, right common carotid artery, left internal carotid artery, left middle cerebral artery, left anterior cerebral artery, right internal carotid artery, the right anterior cerebral artery, anterior communicating artery, right posterior communicating artery, left posterior communicating artery, right posterior cerebral artery, left posterior cerebral artery, basilar artery, right external carotid artery, and left external carotid artery.